

Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Management Plan 2015

WDFW responses to public comments received during the public review of the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Management Plan draft under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) from May 11, 2015 until June 11, 2015.

Comment	WDFW Response
<p>I oppose special disabled angler drive-in access to the lake for several reasons:</p> <p>--Z Lake offers a rare opportunity for lowland hike-in fishing, where the angler who wants to go the extra-mile, can be rewarded with solitude or at least very limited competition and a low-key atmosphere. The closest similar opportunities to Spokane for walk-in lake fishing are a few lakes near Potholes Reservoir and the Ancient Lakes area near Quincy. (McDowell Lake is perhaps the closest walk-in opportunity to Spokane, and has a clientele that really likes it that way.)</p> <p>--Disabled anglers have dozens of opportunities with developed launches and handicapped parking and access for good fishing waters in the Spokane region, including special regulations waters such as Amber, Coffeepot and Medical lakes.</p> <p>--It's discouraging to people who are required to walk more than a mile into Z Lake and find a vehicle there with several people who drove in.</p> <p>--Drive-in privileges open the door to potential abuses.</p> <p>--The duck hunter game enough to pack in some decoys early in the morning is not going to be happy if somebody drives in later in the day. Same with the hikers who trek in to enjoy the solitude and wildlife viewing.</p> <p>I recognize that some fishing clubs that have asked for the disabled access are the same groups that provide volunteers for maintaining the aerator and other projects.</p> <p>A potential compromise would be to set up a couple of special work/fishing days for these volunteers. On those designated days, perhaps a</p>	<p>The Department of Justice published revised regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) on September 15, 2010.</p> <p>Title II applies to State and local government entities, and, in subtitle A, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by State and local government entities. Title II extends the prohibition on discrimination established by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, to all activities of State and local governments regardless of whether these entities receive Federal financial assistance.</p> <p>Part 35 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services</p> <p>The purpose of this part is to effectuate subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. C. 12131), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.</p> <p>§ 35.137 Mobility Devices; addresses the use of manual or power operated mobility devices and went into effect on March 15, 2011 mandating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered entities must allow people with disabilities who use manual or power wheelchairs or scooters, and manually-powered mobility aids such as walkers, crutches, and canes, into all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.

<p>limited number of, say, four vehicles would be allowed to enter the area for the work plus some after-work fishing.</p> <p>Thanks for considering my proposal to eliminate the drive-in option for Z Lake and make it a destination for the walk-in, bike-in angler.</p> <p>Rich Landers Outdoors editor The Spokesman-Review 999 W. Riverside Ave. Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 459-5508</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered entities must also allow people with disabilities who use other types of power-driven mobility devices into their facilities, unless a particular type of device cannot be accommodated because of legitimate safety requirements. Where legitimate safety requirements bar accommodation for a particular type of device, the covered entity must provide the service it offers in alternate ways if possible. <p>§ 35.137(b)(1) Use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD). A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD) cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted.</p> <p>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has enacted Policy 4033 to meet the Federal regulations listed above and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>Upon credible assurance that the mobility device is required because of the person's lower extremity disability and after evaluating all the assessment factors required under § 35.137, and within Policy 4033, a permit may be issued for access to the person with the disability.</p>
<p>With Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Funds being used less and less for planting of birds why not use all of these land for habitat enhancement, food plots and water guzzlers and plant pheasants early in the spring to nest to further enhance upland bird populations. Mule Deer would also benefit/</p> <p>Jeff May</p>	<p>Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Funds are used for habitat enhancement only on private lands. Further, the agency does not release pheasants for population enhancement (in the spring) but only for hunting opportunity in the fall.</p>

15219 E Kallas Ct Spokane Valley Wa 99037	
Please keep access to Z lake limited to foot travel only other than to maintain the aerator. There are many other accessible lakes for the disabled person to visit but few near town that are limited to foot/bike traffic only. Thanks, Steve Shirley	See comment above.
Add the following text under wildlife area goals: Wetlands and riparian areas are other important habitats in this otherwise arid landscape. The Channeled Scablands (described further in sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2), where these three wildlife areas are located, boast over 22,000 individual wetlands, covering over 77,000 acres. It is believed that 80% of all species found in this region utilize wetlands or riparian areas during their life cycle. Unfortunately, it is estimated that over 70% of these wetlands have been impacted by draining or otherwise negatively altered by human activities. WDFW has partnered with other entities to restore valuable wetlands habitats at the Swanson Lake Wildlife area Z-Lake unit and on adjacent BLM lands, and protect the valuable pond and wetlands at the Audubon Lake wildlife area. Wetland and moist soil unit restoration, enhancement, and management play an important role in maintaining ecological integrity of the wildlife areas, improving and maintaining wildlife species diversity, adding to recreational opportunities for the public, and enhancing habitats for many species, including the Columbian sharp-tail and greater sage grouse, as well as a myriad of other bird species (i.e. waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds, songbirds and raptors), mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (Ducks Unlimited).	Text added.
Add text under success stories, restoration, second to last sentence: add restoration was also funded by Duck Stamp, NAWCA and Ducks Unlimited. (Ducks Unlimited)	Text added.
Add text under success stories second sentence, Reardan Audubon Lake – Washington Birding trail: include Lincoln Conservation District (Ducks Unlimited).	Text added.
Edit to Map #3 adding wetland to Reardan Lake	We will not be developing new maps at this time

(Ducks Unlimited)	but will provide this input for any new maps developed as part the restoration planning effort.
Table 5. What about the increase the amount of shallow emergent wetland habitat during the spring, for amphibians and other species? (Ducks Unlimited)	This activity may be considered in the future, funding is the major constraint. This activity will be considered as part of development of the restoration plan.
Table 5. Promote wetland management activities that help prevent bullfrog population establishment. For example, promote installing water control devices to aid the active draining of wetlands every 2 years to prevent bullfrog life cycle completion if bullfrogs are detected. (Ducks Unlimited)	Could be considered as long as scientific evidence suggests a benefit to native species.
Table 9. In table 5 there are some actions like keep reed canarygrass short, wetland management to prevent bullfrogs, etc, and those are not reflected here specifically. Where are the performance measures for those actions? (Ducks Unlimited)	At the time the Swanson Lakes WLA Management Plan was written the purpose of Table 5 is to describe SGCN species and recommended management actions (similar to best management practices) identified during the planning process each of the three wildlife areas. Table 9 contains specific goals, objectives, and performance measures were developed by the planning teams.
Climate change section – add the following text: There's no section on climate change as pertains to wetlands? This habitat will be impacted as well. Climate models state we will have less snow, more rain, in future climate change scenarios, and snowpack is currently the #1 predictor for wetlands. So wetlands will be reduced. then we'll experience hotter and longer summers, so the wetlands that do get some snowmelt or rainfall will dry out faster annually. Management actions can include filling ditches/installing water control structures to retain water longer, remove non native vegetation, etc. (Ducks Unlimited)	Text added to table 7.
Table 9 objective “maintain or reduce the distribution of invasive weeds based on the Weed Management Plan” #3 add wetland text to all three wildlife areas. (Ducks Unlimited)	Text added.